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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/038,796	12/31/2001	Marcille F. Ruman	KCC 4767 (K.C. NO. 17,080	2941
321	7590	08/17/2006	EXAMINER	
SENNIGER POWERS ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE 16TH FLOOR ST LOUIS, MO 63102			REICHLE, KARIN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3761	

DATE MAILED: 08/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER
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20060807

DATE MAILED:

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Commissioner for Patents

see attached communication

Karin M. Reichle  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 3761

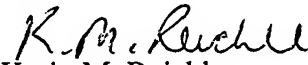
***Reply Brief Noted***

1. The reply brief filed 6-6-06 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karin M. Reichle whose telephone number is (571) 272-4936. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Karin M. Reichle  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3761

KMR  
August 7, 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Ruman et al. Art Unit 3761  
Serial No. 10/038,796  
Filed December 31, 2001  
Confirmation No. 2941  
For ABSORBENT ARTICLE WITH IMPROVED FASTENING SYSTEM AND  
METHOD OF FASTENING THEREOF  
Examiner Karin M. Reichle

June 6, 2006

**REPLY BRIEF**

This is a reply to the Examiner's Answer mailed April 26, 2006. Appellants' reply is being filed to respond to arguments made by the Examiner for the first time in the Examiner's Answer. Particularly, appellants take this opportunity to address some of the Examiner's comments set forth in the Response to Argument section (pages 6-9) of the Examiner's Answer.

Claim 25

In the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner cites for the first time column 9, lines 4-18 and Figs. 3-6 of U.S. Patent No. 5,693,401 (Sommers et al.) in support of her rejection of claim 25. See page 8 of the Examiner's Answer. However, these portions of Sommers et al. are as unsupportive of the Examiner's position as the other portions of Sommers et al. previously relied on by the Examiner. Particularly, nowhere within these newly cited passages (or elsewhere) do Sommers et al. disclose that the loop material is stretchable and/or contractible. Rather, Sommers et al. disclose that the strap can be stretched and contracted as a result of the stretching. Column 9, lines 4-18 of Sommers et al., for example, disclose the stretchability of the strap with respect to Fig. 3. Fig. 3 is an enlarged cross-section taken along a central portion of the strap that is free of the loop material as shown by